

Nayib Bukele Declares One-Party Rule, Opposition ‘Pulverized’ in El Salvador Presidential Election

The president of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele, declared himself the winner of a second five-year term in office on Sunday with an overwhelming 85 percent of the vote, declaring the nation’s opposition “pulverized” and El Salvador the world’s first democratic one-party system.

Bukele was first elected the presidency in 2019 under the New Ideas party, a third party that made history by defeating the two-party establishment of the left-wing Farabundo Martí National Liberation Party (FMLN) and the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA). Prior to founding New Ideas, Bukele was a longtime member of FMLN, but was expelled in 2017 for “defamatory acts” against the party.

Following his first inauguration, Bukele immediately launched a nationwide campaign against El Salvador’s notorious gang-fueled violence, which featured high-profile battles with the federal legislature, the National Assembly, and the courts.

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